

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1963

AIRMEN GROUNDED – BUT GLO'STER FORGOT THE TEAMWORK

GLOUCESTER 17PTS., ROYAL AIR FORCE NIL

Full credit to Gloucester for giving the RAF, last season's Services champions, such a trouncing. But, for my money, individuality featured far more than constructive team work in this "run of the mill" game at Kingsholm on Saturday. And make no mistake about it. I say 'run of the mill' in the face of a 17pts.–nil victory.

For this was a game in which centres Jeremy Taylor and John Bayliss, left-wing Tony Osman, and forwards Brian Hudson and Dick Smith came out shining while the other ten Gloucester players faded, some to a far greater degree than others, into a background of dull, uneventful play which left me on more than one occasion counting the minutes to the final whistle.

Of course, the adverse conditions (although it didn't rain heavily during the entire game) and the disruption at fly-half can be said to account for the lack of team work – but I would be more inclined to blame the run of play for such an undistinguished match.

The RAF played with imagination and verve during the first five minutes and then tailed off with both these qualities becoming virtually non-existent and Gloucester well and truly gaining the upper hand.

THEIR OWN WAY

In this light, once the game was really under way, and in the second half in particular, the Cherry and Whites had things more or less their own way.

And thus what, to my mind, invariably happens in such circumstances – 'coasting home' by the majority of players – spoiled what could have been a much more entertaining fixture.

Nevertheless, the run of play being what it was, Kingsholm supporters were not deprived of a few classic exhibitions on the part of individual players. On occasions both Osman and Taylor made classic openings and must have given the Gloucester selectors plenty to think about.

In a nutshell : quantity (in the form of 17 points) took preference over quality and it [two, or three words unreadable] have been far more interesting Rugby if Gloucester could have backed up the individual brilliance with competent team work as they did in the away fixture with Newport earlier in the season.

Gloucester's tries were scored by Osman (2), Bayliss (2), and Booth, with Hillier converting one.

UNITED WIN AT SWINDON

SWINDON NIL
GLOUCESTER UNITED ... 12PTS.

Forced to make late changes – County winger Peter Meadows met with a mishap en route when stones made crazy pavement of the windscreen of his car and made him turn back – Gloucester United were still too good for Swindon on a pitch that was waterlogged in places.

It rained throughout the match, but the greater skill and experience of United gave them a well-deserved victory by 12 points to nil. United's approach was more constructive and forthright; in comparison the home team preferred possible progress by means of kick and rush methods, though they can claim some disadvantage in the fact that their chief try-scorer, James King, the former Gloucester winger, was kicked in the face (by one of his own players!) and taken to hospital, where he was detained.

The experiment of playing Eric Stephens at full-back was a success, for he proved a reliable peg on which to hang out the United defence, while skipper Peter Hawker and Mike Nicholls – not yet fully recovered from the removal of a cartilage a few weeks ago – were conspicuous in the lively pack, given a fair share of the ball from the set scrums by the hooking of Ken Taylor.

Gary White, Peter Hawker, Bob Hannaford and Gary Mace scored tries for United, none of which were converted.

JC